Maricopa County

Human Services Department - Department History



1965

- What is now known as the Maricopa County Human Services Department (HSD) originally began as the Community Services Department with three operating divisions: Head Start, Manpower Employment Training Programs, and Aging Services.
- Head Start began as a summer program, educating children ages 3 to 5
 years. Manpower managed adult and summer youth programs as well as
 migrant farm worker programs.

1969

- The County created a Community Services Commission designated as the Community Action Agency to serve all of Maricopa County, outside the City of Phoenix.
- The Community Services Division administers the Community Action Program (CAP) to 14 local communities.

1976

 The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) replaced the Manpower Division with Maricopa Employment and Training Administration (META).

1979

 The department name was changed to Human Resources and it was comprised of four Divisions: Head Start, Community Services, META, and Special Transportation Services. In a reorganization, the state assumed management over Aging Services.

1983

• The new Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) replaced META with the Employment and Training Division.

1991

 The department name was changed to Social Services, operating with four divisions: Head Start, Community Services, Special Transportation Services, and Employment and Training.

1994

- The department was renamed the Human Services Department.
- Restructuring created three divisions: Education (Head Start);
 Community Services (CAP and Special Transportation Services); and
 Employment and Training (JTPA services.)

1995

• The City of Mesa was designated a separate Community Action Agency.

1996

- The Early Head Start program was created to serve children from birth to age five years, and their families.
- The Employment and Training Division received funding to implement the One-Stop Career Center system.

1999

 The Employment and Training Division was renamed to the Workforce Development Division.

2000

- The Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) was replaced by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- The Special Transportation Services Division became a partner with the One-Stop Centers and moved into the Workforce Development Division.

2009

- The Special Transportation Services program discontinued providing regional transportation services.
- The Community Development Department was merged into the Human Services Department as a Division that administered programs that increased affordable housing and built stronger and more resilient communities.
- The Department consisted of four divisions: Education, Community Development, Community Services, and Workforce Development.

2011

- The Community Justice Support Services Division is created to provide prevention and intervention services to youth and adults at risk within the criminal justice system.
- The Maricopa County Leadership Experience program is added to the Workforce Development Division, serving as a no-cost, self-paced summer program for youth with activities, workshops, and volunteer opportunities within more than 16 County departments.

2013

• Weatherization and the Emergency Solutions Grant programs were moved to the Community Development Division.

2014

• The Senior and Adult Services Division was created.

2015

• The Administration, Policy, and Planning Division was created, bringing the total of Divisions within HSD to six.

2016

- The Community Development Division was renamed Housing and Community Development to more accurately reflect the Division's scope of work
- The Early Education Division received a 5-year grant to continue operating in the East Valley.
- HSD embraced the 2-Generational Approach leading to several cross-divisional initiatives and partnerships.

2020

 COVID-19 creates a surge in demand from the community for emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities, boosting the typical \$6 million annual budget to \$27 million in CARES Act funds. A call center is established and HSD Dynamics is implemented to increase the efficiency and speed of processing applications for assistance and expanding access to the application process 24 hours a day.

2021

- HSD begins providing \$123,666,807 million of federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA), which includes both rent and utilities.
- The Homeless Services Unit was moved from the Housing and Community Development Division as a direct report to the Office of the Director.

2022

- The East Valley Center opens to offer Workforce Development and Early Education services from one location.
- Intergovernmental agreements expand Workforce Development services to the Maricopa County Library District and six cities and towns.
- HSD consists of the Homeless Services Unit, reporting to the Office of the Director, and six Divisions: Administrative Services, Community Services, Early Education, Housing and Community Development, Senior and Adult Services, and Workforce Development.

Maricopa.gov/HSD Rev. October 2022